



Meeting (No) **Community & Environment Committee (5)**  
Time & Date **6pm Tuesday 10 October 2023**  
Place **Neston Town Hall**  
Document **Minutes**

**Present:** Cllrs Marple (Chair), Davies, Doughty, Griffiths and Hardcastle

**In attendance:** A Duncan (Community & Environment Manager), CWaC Cllr Millar and one resident.

### **PART 1: Items considered in the presence of the press and public**

#### **44 Public Participation** (maximum of three minutes per person)

There were no comments from members of the public.

#### **45 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence had been received. The absence of Cllr Townsend was noted.

#### **46 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **47 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**RESOLVED** to accept as a correct record the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 22.08.23. The Chair signed the minutes.

#### **48 Community & Environment Manager's Report**

It was reported that ParkgateFest CIC had obtained deposit refunds relating to the 2020 event (cancelled due to COVID restrictions) and that £1,380 of grant funding had therefore been returned to the Town Council by the event organisers.

Several items of expenditure were reported:

- allotments – £65 to trim an overgrown plot;
- allotments – £38.50 to purchase additional plot numbers;
- noticeboards – £172.99 to replace the Ness noticeboard lock plus an additional key;
- mosquito bite reporting – £38 for one month software premium user rate;
- Town Hall defibrillator – £84.95 for replacement consumables;
- Wirral Way anniversary – £25 for a Junior Parkrun publicity banner.

#### **49 Committee Budgets 2023/24**

The Committee considered the month six C&E Committee budget statement and earmarked reserves and **RESOLVED** not to make any adjustments.

#### **50 Council Delivery Plan**

The areas of the delivery plan within the remit of the Community and Environment Committee were reviewed. It was agreed that the C&E Manager, in liaison with the Chair and Cllr Hardcastle, would review the current status of each of the 12 goals and draft a series of specific objectives focusing primarily on goals 2,3,6,7 and 9. It was agreed that the draft objectives would be considered at the next scheduled meeting.

**RESOLVED** that monitoring of the delivery plan would become a standing agenda item for all future scheduled C&E meetings.

Chair's initials and date:

BMM 13/11/23

## 51 Community Grants

- a The Committee received an update on the current status of community grant expenditure for the financial year 23/24.
- b The Committee received a report on the current status of end of grant accounts.
- c **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £700 to Neston Community Youth Centre to fit a defibrillator on an external wall at NCYC and to purchase defibrillator consumables (battery and pads) for the internal defibrillator at the Civic Hall. Funding for the consumables to be provided on the condition that NCYC commits to locating the Civic Hall defibrillator on an external wall when funds permit.
- d **RESOLVED** to provide a grant application of up to £500 to Little Actors for the purchase of lighting operating equipment.

## 52 Donations

- a The Committee received an update on the current status of both community event and general donations for the financial year 23/24.
- b **RESOLVED** to approve a breakdown of expenditure relating to the community event donation of £1,700 in support of the 2023 Neston Village Fair.
- c **RESOLVED** to offer financial support for the proposed Little Actors Neston Theatre Arts Festival by making a Spacehive crowdfunding pledge of £450 (10% of the fundraising target).

## 53 Chester Road Car Park

The Committee considered the current situation relating to car park spacing, enforcement and disabled parking restrictions and agreed to recommend that Council writes to CWaC to request that:

- a review of the current layout is undertaken in order to increase parking capacity as well as making improvements to ensure the safe flow of traffic around the car park and increase visibility at junctions within the car park;
- clear signage is installed at the Brook Street access point to ensure that drivers are aware of the parking regulations;
- the restriction on disabled parking be reversed in order to allow usage to be surveyed over a period of time, thereby providing data to inform a final decision about the necessity for time restrictions.

## 54 Remembrance Sunday

- a **RESOLVED** to approve the risk assessment for the 2023 Remembrance Sunday road closure.
- b **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Davies as the NTC Councillor Co-ordinator to attend and implement the agreed risk assessment during the 2023 Remembrance Sunday road closure.

## 55 Neston Looking Better Group

The Committee received the Neston Looking Better Group meeting notes dated 22.06.23.

## 56 D-Day Commemorations

The Committee noted information about the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and agreed that a budget of £700 would be required should a decision be taken to purchase a commemorative beacon. It was also agreed that any commemorations should be arranged in consultation with the Neston branch of the Royal British Legion.

Chair's initials and date:

BMM 13/11/23

## 57 Community Events

The Committee considered a draft community events strategy along with potential community event options for 2024. Given existing financial commitments, it was **RESOLVED** that the community event options as detailed in paper CE5/57 would not be progressed in the financial year 24/25.

CWaC Cllr Millar and one resident left the meeting.

## 58 Budget 24/25

The Committee requested that £700 for D-Day commemorations be included in the draft budget. It was also agreed that a sum should be included for marsh dredging following the Marsh Working Group meeting on 12 October. It was noted that the draft budget request would be considered at the next scheduled meeting of the Community & Environment Committee.

## 59 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting would held be on 28.11.23 at 6pm.

## 60 Exclusion of the Press and the Public

**RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the business to be transacted involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, paragraph 3: information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person.

## PART 2: Items considered in the absence of the press and public

### 61 Christmas Lights for Neston – Contract Options

**RESOLVED** to extend the contract with the current Christmas lighting contractor for a further three years at a cost of £23,283.78 for Christmas 2023, £24,638.78 for 2024 and £22,888.78 for 2025. (2023 cost includes purchase of a star for the High Street tree and 2024 cost includes replacement of the Little Neston tree lights.)

**RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Community & Environment Manager to purchase icicle lights and arrange for their installation along the back of the Town Hall in time for Christmas 2023. The cost of installation in subsequent years to be added to the existing contract.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed Brenda M. Marple Date 13/11/23